

UCLA Faculty Association

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Saturday, December 13, 2025

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 101



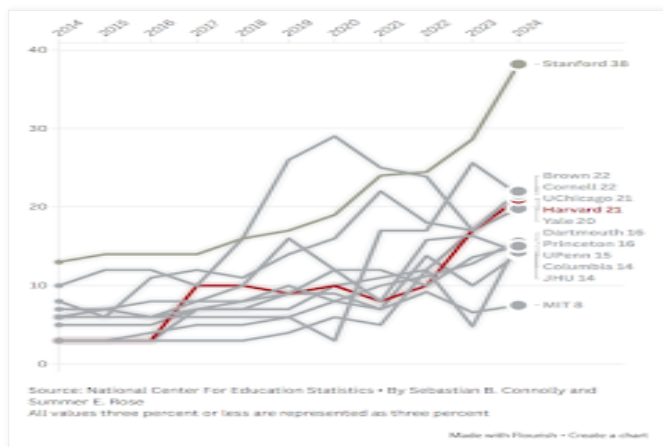
From the [Harvard Crimson](#): Roughly a fifth of undergraduate students at Harvard received disability accommodations last year — an increase of more than 15 percentage points over the past decade, according to data published annually by the National Center for Education Statistics. The rise — from roughly three percent in 2014 to 21 percent in 2024 — brings the share of undergraduate students receiving accommodations at Harvard in line with the national average, which has consistently hovered around 20 percent. The prevalence has sparked suspicion from some faculty and in the national media that some students are using accommodations to eke out advantages, like extra

time on tests, that their peers don't receive.

Harvard has drawn particular scrutiny as one of several elite four-year colleges that have seen their share of students receiving accommodations increase significantly — particularly after an article published in *The Atlantic* last week called attention to the rates at Harvard. But staff at Harvard's University Disability Resources say the increase is, in part, the result of a concerted push to lower barriers to access student resources, as well as decreased stigma around disabilities...

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Percentage of Undergraduate Students Reporting Disabilities



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Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/12/8/harvard-undergrad-disabilities-climb/>.

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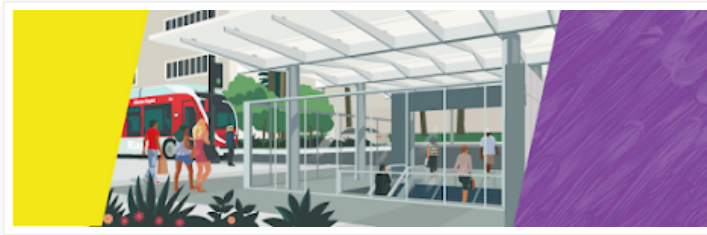
Other Faculty Organizations

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Topics

Friday, December 12, 2025

Subway Work



D Line Extension: Westwood/UCLA Station Deck Removal Resumes December 12

Workers will resume the removal of the temporary deck panels at the Westwood/UCLA Station on Friday, December 12. This major construction milestone marks the start of restoring Wilshire Bl after years of underground excavation. The work will require weekend closures of westbound Wilshire Bl between Westwood Bl and Veteran Av for approximately eight additional weekends, with detours in place. Eastbound lanes remain open with reduced capacity. Additional impacts, including temporary closures on Gayley Av and Westwood Bl, are anticipated as work progresses.

Traffic Control

Traffic on westbound Wilshire Bl will be detoured at Westwood Bl to Santa Monica Blvd via portable changeable message boards located at various locations. Traffic will remain open on eastbound Wilshire Bl; however, since eastbound Wilshire Bl will be reduced to two lanes, message boards will be placed to encourage motorists to utilize Santa Monica Blvd via Sepulveda Blvd in case of heavy congestion.

Hauling Hours

Hauling of the decking panels, deck beams, backfill material, base and asphalt will take place throughout the duration of the closure.

Noteworthy

- All work has received necessary permits and approvals.
- Parking restrictions will be implemented in the immediate work zone area.
- Construction is dynamic and schedules are subject to change.
- The project information line is 213.922.6934

Source: <https://cloud.sfmtc.metro.net/DeckingUCLASStation>. The original notice at this link was for the weekend of December 5, but apparently the work was delayed until this coming weekend.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [traffic](#), [transportation](#), [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 189

From Inside Higher Ed: *The Federal Trade Commission accused the American Bar Association of having a "monopoly on the accreditation of American law schools" in a letter to the Texas Supreme Court at a time when the state is considering minimizing the ABA's oversight of legal education. In April, the Texas Supreme Court announced it was looking into eliminating ABA requirements for licensure. Justices wrote in a tentative opinion in the fall that the ABA "should no longer have the final say on whether a law school's graduates are eligible to sit for the Texas bar exam and become licensed to practice law." It also invited the public to comment on a proposal to potentially undercut the ABA as an accreditor for Texas law schools.*



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More on the Way We Live Now

FTC officials Clarke Edwards and Daniel Guarnera signaled support for potentially moving away from ABA accreditation in a nine-page letter submitted to the Texas Supreme Court on Monday. In addition to claiming the ABA was a monopoly, they argued it had “rigid and costly requirements” and that it mandates “every law school follow an expensive, elitist model of legal education.” ...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/12/04/ftc-claims-aba-monopoly>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [politics](#)

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 100



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): In the biting cold, roughly 80 local affiliates called on Harvard to increase its wage offers to custodians in... rally [this past Monday] outside University Hall. 32BJ Service Employees International Union, which represents campus custodians, has been bargaining with the University since early October — but negotiations quickly stalled over wages. After Harvard proposed 2.7 percent average annual increases across a five-year contract in response to a 5.1 percent average yearly increase proposed by the union last week, the two parties agreed to enter federal mediation to resolve the deadlock.

...Under their current contract, 32BJ custodians are paid between \$28.00 and \$30.68 an hour, depending on their job title and seniority. Harvard spokesperson Jason A. Newton declined to comment on the rally, instead referring *The Crimson* to a statement provided after the two parties agreed to enter federal mediation. “The University deeply values our custodial team and the essential work they do,” he wrote, pointing to Harvard’s offer of \$2,000 in bonuses upon ratification and wage increases above 3 percent in later years of the proposed five-year agreement...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/12/9/32bj-rally-december/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Harvard](#)

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Why folks are nervous - Part 2

We noted in an earlier post this week that there are reasons folks are nervous about the efforts to consolidate the existing diverse IT systems on campus into one. Basically, anything that says “new system” seems to mean trouble. We noted past examples. Here is another from the [Bruin](#):



...UCLA’s new financial aid platform delayed some scholarship payments and overawarded others, sparking frustration among students. UCLA switched to new software — Bruin Financial Aid — this summer to “modernize financial aid processing” and increase efficiency and stability, according to the UCLA Digital and Technology Solutions website. UCLA’s previous financial aid processing system — Financial Aid Mainframe — had been in use since the 1980s and was at “the end of its lifecycle,” according to the website. Student aid financial aid amounts were adjusted because of state financial aid eligibility requirements and recalculations that came along with UCLA’s new financial aid platform, the UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships Office said in an emailed statement.

While students were notified of their eligibility for the Middle Class Scholarship — a scholarship for low and middle-income students attending California public colleges — in September,

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disbursements only began Nov. 26. Financial Aid cited a large volume of about 11,000 recipients for the delay in disbursements, which were originally set for late September, according to archived versions of its website in August. The UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships Office also said in the emailed statement that some MCSs are under further review through December...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/12/04/bruin-financial-aid-scholarship-delays-costly-overawards-spark-frustrations>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 188

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): The University of Alabama has ended publication of two student-run magazines, one focused on women and the other on Black students, in order to comply with legal obligations, officials say. Local and student media reported that Steven Hood, the university's vice president for student life, said that because the magazines target specific groups, they're what the Department of Justice considers "unlawful proxies" for discrimination. Both publications received university funding.

The women's magazine, [Alice], just celebrated its 10th anniversary last month, while Nineteen Fifty-Six, named after the year the first Black student enrolled in the university, says it was created in 2020. [Alice] managing editor Leslie Klein told Inside Higher Ed that university officials told her magazine's editor in chief Monday that the magazines were being canceled because they're identity-based... The university pointed to a July memo from Pam Bondi, in which the U.S. attorney general provided "non-binding best practices" to avoid "significant legal risks." She wrote that "facially neutral criteria" that "function as proxies for protected characteristics" are illegal "if designed or applied" to intentionally advantage or disadvantage people based on race or sex...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/free-speech/2025/12/03/alabama-ends-black-women-focused-student-magazines>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [U of Alabama](#)

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 99



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): Every Thursday night, dozens of men in suits descend on the Junior Common Room of Dunster House. A few of them, carrying fire poker, stand watch at the door — ceremonial guards of the semi-secret conservative debating society. Inside, the members of the John Adams Society adhere to stringent etiquette in their debates, always referring to each other as "gentleman," even when discussions get heated. This year, they addressed their new class of potential members as the "men of Harvard" — an apt greeting, since no women were present.

Six individuals, including a female former JAS member and two prospective members, told The Crimson that JAS now informally excludes women. Students said that no women were asked to join the invite-only group, with the former member noting that returning female members were not asked to pay their club dues. Now, JAS is effectively functioning as a single-sex organization...

College spokesperson Jonathan Palumbo wrote in a statement that no reports of gender discrimination by the John Adams Society have been filed with the Dean of Students Office. "If

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students have these concerns, they should report them right away for the Dean of Students Office so they can review," Palumbo wrote...

Among at least some right-leaning students at Harvard, proposals for single-sex education have gained renewed appeal. A campus conservative magazine, the Harvard Salient, published a September article arguing that Harvard should "revisit the wisdom of separate education" for men and women...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/12/8/john-adams-society-women/>.

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